

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM A TRIP IN LADAK.

BY

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During the summer of 1922, I went to Ladak and had the opportunity of making some observations and collecting a small number of the birds of that district.

We left Srinagar on July 7th and, crossing the Anchar Lake, picked up our camp at Ganderbal and started our march up the Sind Valley. As we were pushing through rather quickly on the first part of the journey, I did not have time to give much attention to the birds, but it struck me that round Srinagar and on the Lakes there were singularly few birds this year, though as we got higher up into the forest their numbers increased and at Baltal on July 11th, at the head of the Sind Valley 9,000 feet I saw a great number of different sorts. At this place I watched a pair of Pink-browed finches (*Callocanthis burtoni*) in the birch grove near the bungalow. They were the first I had met with. They were feeding on fallen grass seeds, and were so tame that they allowed me to approach within a few yards of them where I stood in the open watching them for about ten minutes, during which time they came up to within three yards of me without seeming to notice me.

The scenery to the top of the Soji La Pass from Baltal is typical of Kashmir, and Kashmir at its best, but once over the Pass, which, though only 11,300 feet, was covered for long stretches with snow on July 12th, the country changes very rapidly. The forest and the flowers end abruptly and after a mile or two of hillside on which grass and birches struggle for existence, these two die away and one reaches the foot of the Pass to enter the valley of Matayan, a bleak stony plain bounded by bare brown hills in which the only vegetation is a narrow line of scrub along the river bank, and a few corn fields near the dak bungalow. Here too the birds have completely changed. Here for the first time I saw the Siberian chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*), which from now on abounded in every bush and patch of vegetation, and here also were innumerable larks, the Indian Skylark (*Alauda gulgula guttata*) and the Short-toed lark (*Calandrella acutirostris*), both in the corn as well as on the stony ground. Besides these, Redstarts (*Ruticilla rufiventris*) Golden-fronted Serins (*Serinus pusilla*), Common Rose Finches (*Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus*), Stoliczka's Mountain Finches (*Montifringilla nemoricola altaica*), Choughs (*Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) and Hill Rock Pigeons (*Columba rupestris*) were common from now throughout our whole journey.

From Matayan to Kargil, about 3 marches at a height of about 10,000 feet, our road lay along the banks of different small rivers running through narrow valleys which are bounded by barren rocks and cliffs. On these three marches I saw a few Meadow Buntings (*Emberiza cia stracheyi*) and wherever there was a village there were always a pair of Magpies (*Pica pica bactriana*) whose colouring and character seemed little different from their European brother. By the rivers where there were suitable cliffs there were from time to time colonies of Crag Martins (*Cotyle rupestris*) and Swifts (*Cypselus apus pekinensis*). Our path lay for the most part over stony or boulder strewn country. The only trees were an occasional poplar or willow grove near the villages, which were carefully planted and protected by a wall. It is by these villages of which one sometimes passes three or four on a day's march of 15 to 20 miles, that one sees the only cultivation, and hence these are the spots in which one finds the most birds and certainly the greatest number of larks.

After Kargil, the country becomes even more arid, and one frequently marches for many miles over high barren stony plateaus on which there is no kind of

vegetation and the only life to be seen is an occasional lark. Yet there is something wonderfully attractive about the wildness of it all. One feels one has stepped at last into Central Asia, in which through countless centuries there can have been little if any change either in the country or the people.

One of the most delightful marches is from Kargil to Moulbeck, a march of 23 miles. The road starts over a bleak plateau about three miles across and at a height of about 10,000 feet, surrounded by equally bleak mountains; from this one reaches a small river, the right bank of which one follows all the way up to Moulbeck. For many miles one is over shadowed by rugged cliffs, and in this gorge were quite a number of birds; most of these were the same as already seen but there were as well red spotted Blue throats (*Iuscinia suecica abbotti*) some kestrels, a few jungle crows, and a small number of other birds that I could not identify. About two miles from Moulbeck the gorge opens out into a broad valley where for the first time one comes across signs of Buddhism. Here I watched a beautiful pair of Bearded Vultures (*Gypaëtus barbatus*) circling round the monastery crowned cliffs above the village. The only other pair of these birds that I saw throughout our journey was in similar cliffs two marches further on at Lamayuru 11,500 feet, and I have no doubt the birds had their nesting place in both those cliffs though I failed to see it.

After Moulbeck we crossed the Namika La Pass 13,000 feet and the FotuLa Pass 13,400. Cold, bare and bleak yet without snow to be seen anywhere, although the surrounding hills must rise to well over 15,000 feet. There were, few birds to be seen on these Passes; those we did see were mostly larks, Adam's Snow Finch (*Montifringilla nivalis adamsi*), wheatears and redstarts.

The place in which I saw most birds was on our last march from Nimoo to Leh on July 26th at a height of about 11,000 feet. After marching for many miles across a desert like plateau we suddenly came upon the Indus flowing through a small fertile valley below us, perhaps one of the most beautiful sights of the whole journey as it lay like a cool shining gem at our feet. When we reached it we found a fairly wide gently flowing river with low grassy banks on which grew old willow trees and a grey leafed scrub, with here and there a small reed bed; and in this narrow strip of vegetation were crowded every kind of bird that we had so far seen on our journey and a good many more besides, especially wagtails. Amongst those I had not seen before were gulls, terns, and some kind of plover, also various small waders, feeding on the low grassy islands in mid stream. But we were not long to enjoy this delectable spot, for after following the river for about a mile our road struck away to the left leading us across the worst three miles of sandy desert that we had yet struck. However it was to be our last effort, for we already saw the rich fields and poplar groves with the picturesque monastery and castle on the cliffs behind them which we realized must be Leh. Another mile or so, and we were at last walking down the famous street of the old town where until recent years they still played the original game of polo.

We remained in Leh from July 26th till August 3rd. There is a good deal of cultivation round Leh itself, with pleasant streams running through grassy meadows where wagtails and dippers may always be found. Beyond Leh we went but one march, to the top of the Kardong Pass, about 17,000 feet. It is some 16 miles to the top from Leh. The country was exactly the same as already described, except that at about 17,400 feet, we at last reached snow, and there was a good deal on the top of the Pass. I saw very few birds and as usual very few flowers. Along the edge of the stream at about 14,000 ft., I found a Robin Accentor's nest (*Prunella rubeculoides*). This bird was entirely new to me, but after this I saw several other pairs as we climbed the Pass. At about 16,000 feet, I saw two pairs of Long-billed Horned Larks (*Otocorys alpestris longirostris*). These, a few dippers by the stream, redstarts, choughs and three ravens on the top of the Pass, were about the only birds we saw. One delightful

feature of the day was the number of marmots, especially young ones evidently only just out of their holes, playing like fox-cubs round the burrows. Amongst some of these I sat whilst they played within arms reach of me until I had to move on as time was all too short.

We returned on August 3rd by the same route, but though we saw nothing new, there were great changes in the distribution of some of the birds. In places where I had seen many larks on our outward journey, I, now found none at all; and in spots where a month before I had seen no Stoliczka's mountain finches I now found them flying about in big flocks. The larks also were collecting in flocks in certain places, and very wary they had become. The magpies which I had always found in couples in each village were now only to be seen here and there, and then in company with each other and their young. At Dras in the camping ground near the river there were positively swarms of Siberian chiffchaffs and Green Willow-warblers (*Phylluscopus nitidus viridanus*) the latter of which I had not seen at all on my outward journey. It was in fact most interesting to see the change that two or three weeks can make amongst the birds of a country side.

After nearly six weeks of cloudless skies and perfect weather, we again crossed the Soji La Pass on August 18th and dropped down to Baltal to find clouds and rain and much cold wind; and from that day the weather became so broken that we gave up all idea of a further expedition and returned to Ganderbal and the now welcome safety from wind and rain, of a houseboat, and the end of our wanderings.

The following species were identified during the trip:—

1. TIBETAN RAVEN—*Corvus corax tibetanus* Hodgs.

Saw three of these birds on July 19th on the top of the Fotu La Pass, 13,400 feet between Chamba Kharbu and Lama Yuru. They were flying over and did not settle. I returned some three weeks later but saw no more there although I spent two hours on the Pass. On July 31st. I again saw three on the top of the Kardong Pass beyond Leh, about 17,600 feet. I should say they had bred there by the debris and mess there was on the rocks for some distance round the Pass, and from the smell occasioned by it. They flew close round us all the time we were there, continually settling on the rocks. Amongst other things, they kept on flying up with pieces of old prayer flags and bits of paper and dropping them on the rocks around; they seemed in fact considerably disturbed by our presence.

2. JUNGLE CROW.—*Corvus coronoides intermedius* Adams.

Throughout our march I saw very few of these birds. There were a small number near Matayan. At Kargil on July 17th. I saw a solitary bird, and at Nimoo on July 24th I saw one or two more; but I should say that on the whole they were rare.

3. JACKDAW—*Corvus monedula saemmeringii* Fischer.

The only jackdaws I saw outside Kashmir were five on August 2nd feeding in a marshy grassfield at Leh. They were very rusty looking and in thoroughly bad plumage.

4. KASHMIR MAGPIE—*Pica pica bactriana* Bonap.

Magpies were common all the way from a few miles below Matayan to Leh. Wherever there was a poplar grove, or a few willow trees there was sure to be a pair and every village had its pair. They seemed to have exactly the same characteristics as the European species, and were bold and tame. I went up

to a number of nests but all were empty or had nearly fledged young. The nests which were built some way up the trees consisted of a huge structure of thorny sticks, taken, whenever possible from the grey-leaved thorny scrub by the rivers. This was sometimes two or three feet high before one came to the egg cavity which was made of coarse roots and dead grass, and so well protected all round and above by thorny branches that it was almost impossible to get one's hand inside. Occasionally they built their nests on the top of old ones and once I saw no less than five built one on the top of the other in a willow tree forming a pyramid many feet high.

5. RED-BILLED CHOUGH—*Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax* (L.)

Choughs were common throughout our journey wherever the locality was suitable, and this happened to be the case on the greater part of our marches. By the time we reached Leh at the end of July the young were beginning to appear, and on our homeward journey during August, the young had all fledged. The only place I saw where they were clearly nesting was in some high cliffs near the Indus about 4 miles below Leh and just above Spittak; this was at the beginning of August.

6. ALPINE CHOUGH—*Pyrrhonorax graculus* (L.)

Only observed between Chamba Kharbu and Lama Yuru on July 19th.

7. THE KASHMIR GREAT TIT—*Parus major kaschmirensis* Hartert.

Fairly common in poplar and willow groves all the way from Matayan to Leh. At Nimoo on July 19th I found a nest with young.

8. LARGE BILLED BUSH WARBLER—*Tribura major* (Brooks).

This bird I first saw on July 18th near Chamba Kharbu at about 11,000 feet. Whilst looking for larks' nests in the vegetation near the river I marked a pair of these birds off their nest, shooting one parent bird and obtaining a clutch of 3 very slightly incubated eggs from the nest. The nest was placed about an inch off the ground at the bottom of a small thicket of the thorny scrub which grows by the rivers. It was rather smaller than a lark's nest, well built, rather deep, consisting of small dead twigs and dead grass stems outside, lined with finer stems and a very, little horse hair. The behaviour of the birds was peculiar in that they never rose from the ground. The first time I disturbed them they ran away very fast in the under growth and I completely lost sight of them. I gave them time to return to the nest and next time they went off in the same way, and although I followed them closely trying to get a clear shot, they refused to rise off the ground, though occasionally they would run up the stems of the tamarisk scrub. They kept close together all the while, both when the hen was on the nest and when she was driven off.

The only other birds I saw of this species were a single bird in the corn at Lama Yuru on July 19th when the corn was fully grown; and again in some more fields at the same place on August 9th but owing to their skulking habits there are no doubt more of them than one sees.

9. HUME'S WHITETHROAT,—*Sylvia aethocea* Hume ??

There were very few of these birds in Ladak. I saw one pair and shot one of them at Spittak on July 26 in the reeds and vegetation near the Indus, about 11,000 ft. And I watched another pair and shot one of them in a willow grove near a stream above Leh on July 29th, about 11,800 feet. These did not appear to be nesting, either by their manner, nor from the careful search I made in every

possible place in which they might have placed their nest. It would therefore appear as far as my experience went that the white throat is not common in Ladak.

10. GREEN WILLOW WARBLER.—*Acanthopneuste nitidus viridanus* Blyth.

The only green willow warblers I saw were at Dras on August 14th and 15th at about 10,000 feet. Here there were quite a number of them in a willow grove near the river. It was a place admirably suited to them with young willows just growing, and long grass and other tangled undergrowth, and a few tall willows and poplars growing round outside the grove, which was some four acres in size. In one case I saw the young still being fed, but the rest of the birds I saw were, if young, fully fledged.

11. SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF.—*Phylloscopus collybita tristis* Blyth.

This was perhaps the commonest bird all the way to Leh. It began in the tamarisk scrub along the river side below Matayan and from there wherever there was a possible bush in which to make their nest there was sure to be a pair. I found the first nest on July 14th a few miles beyond Dras at about 10,000 feet in a willow grove; it was near a stream and contained three fresh eggs; it was placed between some young willow shoots and the main stem, a foot from the ground and it consisted of dead leaves, with an inner lining of the cottony fluff from the willow seeds intertwined with goat's hair, and lined inside with small grey feathers; it was extremely difficult to see, and very like the English species in all its features. The next nest I found was on July 17th between Kargil and Moulbeck at about 10,000 feet close to the river in a thorny bush, it was placed a foot from the ground, and this time consisted of dead and green grass outside, and was lined with feathers; it contained no eggs. At Basgoo about 11,000 feet, on July 24th, I found a nest in a rose bush containing 3 well grown young birds; this nest was also close to a stream. At Spittak on July 26th about 11,000 feet there were several pairs feeding their young in the reeds by the Indus. At Leh on July 26th to August 4th, 11,500 feet, I found three nests in the thorns round the top of the 4 foot wall which surrounds the dak bungalow compound. One had forsaken without laying, one had forsaken after laying three eggs; the other on August 3rd had three eggs on the point of hatching. Three seems to be the number they always lay. There were many pairs of them in the willow groves round Leh, mostly with young. I noticed that the song of this bird is practically the same as that in England though perhaps not quite so decided a note.

12. GOLDEN ORIOLE—*Oriolus oriolus kundoo* Sykes.

I came across golden orioles three times on our journey. On July 24th at Nimoo about 11,000 feet a pair were clearly nesting in the Lombardy poplars round the dak bungalow. On our return journey on August 4th the same pair were still there, and later in the day we saw two pairs in the apple and poplar trees of the Basgoo camping ground also 11,000 feet. A pair were in the poplars of the camping ground at Kargil on August 13th about 9,000 feet.

13. WHITE-CAPPED REDSTART—*Chaimarrornis leucocephala* (Vig.).

Common by the rivers as far as just beyond Kargil after which I saw no more.

14. INDIAN BLACK REDSTART.—*Ruticilla ochrurus phœnicuroides* (Moore).

This redstart was one of the commonest birds all the way to Leh up to about 17,000 feet. Wherever there were big enough rocks or walls, or indeed, any possible place to nest in, a pair was sure to be found. I did not succeed in

finding a nest as they were always placed in the most inaccessible holes whether in boulders or walls. They appeared to be in all stages of incubation, and in Leh and on our homeward journey in August the young were strong on the wing. They are delightfully tame and every bungalow has its pair.

15. EASTERN WHITE-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT.—*Luscinia suecica abbotti* (Richm.).

My first sight of the White-spotted Bluethroat was in the low growing scrub besides the Indus at Spittak on July 26th, about 11,000 feet, where I saw a pair feeding their young. On July 29th I marked a cock bird to its nest with food for its newly hatched young. There were 3 young and one egg on the point of hatching. The nest was placed at the foot of, and in the middle of a mass of young willow shoots round a willow tree, and consisted of fibrous roots lined with very much finer ones and fine dead grass leaves. The nest was 2½" across the centre by 2" deep. On my homeward journey I saw a number of these birds feeding their young all the way as far as Kargil. Doubtless they had been sitting on my outward journey, and I had therefore missed seeing them.

16. ROBIN ACCENTOR.—*Pruniella rubeculoides* (Moore).

I only found the Robin Accentor in one small area, namely, up the Kardong Pass on July 31st. I first saw it at about 14,000 feet where a pair were feeding their young in a nest under a rock about five yards from the stream. The nest was placed on the ground just under the rock in a tangle of wild flowers; it was so well hidden that I should have found it with difficulty had I not noticed a tiny "run" worn in the long grass, and leading to the nest. The nest consisted of dead grass stems and leaves, lined with sheep's wool and a little hair. It was about 2½" across by 2" deep, and contained 3 young. After this I saw several pairs near the stream up to about 16,000 feet and above that they were inhabiting the barren stony ground up to about 17,000 feet. I should say by their behaviour that these pairs still had eggs, but I was unable to look for their nests.

17. GOULD'S DESERT CHAT.—*Ænanthe deserti atrogularis* (Blyth).

I shot this bird near the Fotu La Pass (13,400 feet) at about 12,000 feet on August 9th. On both journeys I had seen a few wheatears both on the Fotu La Pass and the Namika La (13,000 feet) where I should say by their manner they were nesting.

18. GOLD FINCH.—*Acanthis caniceps* (Vigors).

Met with a few in the willow groves round Leh at the end of July.

19. COMMON ROSE FINCH.—*Carpodacus erythrina roseata* (Hodgs.).

From the Soji La Pass to Leh this finch is very common. It is one of the most conspicuous birds of the road, both in its cheery rather noisy song, and its colouring. It is to be met with in all the willow and apricot groves, as well as on the rocky hill side where the only vegetation is a few scanty rose bushes. It was clearly nesting all the way to Leh, and though I never found a nest I saw a good many young on my way home in August.

20. GOLDEN-FRONTED SERIN.—*Serinus pusillus* (Pall.).

This is one of the commonest birds all the way from the Soji La to Leh during July and August. It is to be seen either in pairs or in small flocks both on the rocky hillsides where I imagine it nests in the rose bushes, and in the cultivated country where one usually sees it amongst the willow trees.

21. CASHMERE HOUSE SPARROW—*Passer domesticus parkini* Whistler.

The sparrow in Ladak is exactly similar in its customs and manners to its English relative. It is common all the way from Matayan to Leh, every bungalow having four or five dirty untidy nests above the verandah. During July it was for the most part still nesting, but in August the country side was over-run with flocks of young birds, and the damage they do to the crops must be very considerable.

22. ADAMS' MOUNTAIN FINCH.—*Montifringilla nivalis adamsi* Adams.

This mountain finch is an inhabitant of the barren stony country, preferably high plateaux and passes. I first met with it on July 18th on the top of the Namika La Pass, 13,000 feet, a stony bare piece of country with very little vegetation. On July 19th on the Fotu La Pass, 13,400 feet, I again saw it, and as we got near to Leh it was common on all the stony plateaus. At Leh itself it was very common at about 11,500 feet just beyond the cultivation limit, where I should say it was nesting in the Buddhist chortens. It was here that I saw it with fledgling young for the first time, on July 26th. It was common up the Kardong Pass up to about 15,000 feet which appeared to be its limit. On my return journey I saw quantities of young birds, sometimes going about in small flocks.

23. MONGOLIAN DESERT BULLFINCH—*Erythrospiza mongolica* (Swinh.).

I saw one specimen of this small finch which I shot at about 10,000 feet on August 19th near the stream at the foot of the cliff that forms the gorge below Lama yuru. It appeared to be feeding on grass seeds in the dry bed of the stream.

24. STOLICZKA'S MOUNTAIN FINCH—*Fringilauda nemoricola altaica* (Everson.)

There were great numbers of these finches during the first part of our march in July, from the Soji La to Kargil at a height of about 10,000 feet. After that I only saw a few between Kargil and Lama Yuru, and beyond this I saw none at all. On our homeward march in August there were large numbers of them going about in flocks; I should imagine, many of them were young birds. They were mostly to be found in the boulder strewn hillside, though I occasionally came across parties of them in the tamarisk scrub by the rivers. One or two pairs near Dras and Matayan clearly still had young in the nest, about August 16th, but I failed to find them.

25. EASTERN MEADOW BUNTING—*Emberiza cia stracheyi* Moore.

I met with a few specimens of this meadow bunting on our earlier marches between Matayan and Moulbeck in the middle of July at a height of about 9,000 feet. But after this I never saw another bird. Those I saw were in rough boulder strewn country. On our return journey in the middle of August the few birds I saw were feeding their young. I cannot say they were common anywhere.

26. CRAG-MARTIN—*Riparia rupestris* (Scop.).

Common throughout where rocks and cliffs were suitable. They seemed to prefer a site near a river. I did not discover whether they were nesting but there were quite a number of the birds in each colony.

27. HOUSE MARTIN—*Delichon urbica* sub. sp. ?

These I saw from time to time in suitable localities, namely where there were cliffs near the river, such as those along the Indus between Nurla and Saspu but they were never in great numbers.

28. HODGSON'S PIED WAGTAIL—*Motacilla alba hodgsoni* Blyth.

Throughout the journey I saw a few of these birds in suitable localities, some of them were undoubtedly nesting.

29. GREY WAGTAIL—*Motacilla cinerea melanope* Pall.

I saw several of these birds in and near Leh, about 11,500 feet. On July 29th I found a pair breeding near a stream in some grassy meadows. The nest was placed under a rock within a few yards of the stream. It was so well concealed by the vegetation round the rock that it was with difficulty that I found it. It contained three well grown chicks. The nest consisted of roots and a few dead leaves lined with fine dead grass. The birds seem to resemble very closely the English species in all their habits and manners.

30. HODGSON'S YELLOW-HEADED WAGTAIL—*Motacilla citreola calcaratus* (Hodgs.).

This is the commonest of all the wagtails in Ladak. Between Matayan and Leh one sees it continually on the route, wherever there is a suitable locality. I did not find its nest but in many places it was quite clearly breeding amongst the rocks in the grassy meadows near streams.

31. LONG-BILLED HORNEE LARK—*Otocorys alpestris longirostris* (Moore).

I found two pairs of Horned Larks on the Kardong Pass beyond Leh on July 31st between 16 and 17,000 feet. They were evidently breeding but I failed to find their nest. They have a charming song which they utter from the top of a boulder. The country I found them in was barren stony country with boulders here and there.

32. THE SMALL KASHMIR SKYLARK—*Alauda gulqula guttata* Brooks.

The Kashmir Skylark is to be found commonly distributed throughout Ladak from about 8,000 to 14,000 feet. They are mostly to be found in cultivated ground or in vegetation near the rivers. They were clearly nesting at Dras on July 13th and as we got nearer Leh many of them were feeding their young. On my return journey many of the young had fledged.

33. SHORT-TOED LARK—*Calandrella acutirostris* Hume.

The Short-toed Lark is fairly common throughout Ladak, on the open stony ground both in the valleys and plateaux from about 9,000 to 14,000 feet. I found one nest with 3 fresh eggs on the stony ground at Matayan about 10,000 feet on July 12th. The nest was built in a slight depression under a small greyish plant that grows amongst the stones. It consisted of small dry twigs and dry grass stems, lined with a little wool and goat hair, and one feather. As we got nearer to Leh these larks had young, and on our return journey in August most of the young had flown and were moving about in small flocks which were very difficult to approach.

34. WHITE-BREADED ASIATIC DIPPER—*Cinclus cinclus kashmiriensis* (Gould)

A pair watched feeding its young, on July 29th, in the bank of a stream above Leh, about 11,800 feet. The nest was far under the bank and quite inaccessible. Another pair were seen up the Kardong Pass on July 31st, at about 15,000 feet.

35. ASIATIC CUCKOO—*Cuculus canorus telephonus* L.

Very common on the Soji La. After this I saw a few at Chamba, Karbu, Kalsi and Spittak, but they were nowhere common.

36. HOOPOE—*Upupa epops* L.

Common all the way to Leh round the villages and inhabited parts.

37. SWIFT—*Micropus apus pekinensis* (Swinh.).

A few seen throughout the journey in suitable localities, usually where there are cliffs near a river.

38. BEARDED VULTURE—*Gypaëtus barbatus*.

Two pairs seen, one at Moulbeck about 10,000 feet, one at Lamyuru about 11,000 feet. Both pairs inhabited the cliffs below the monasteries. I did not see their nests but from their behaviour they evidently bred in these cliffs.

39. VULTURE SP? *Gyps* sp?

I saw a few brown vultures near the Soji La and one more at Dras.

40. HOBBY—*Falco subbuteo subuteo*.

Two pairs were seen, one was nesting in the poplars of the camping ground at Kargil in August at about 9,000 feet, the other was nesting in the poplars of the Dak Bungalow at Nimoo, about 10,000 feet, in July and August.

41. KESTREL—*Falco tinnunculus* L.

Seen occasionally throughout Ladak, sometimes in rocky country, sometimes in poplar groves. In the Residency garden at Leh, 11,500 feet, a pair were nesting at the end of July.

42. INDIAN BLUE HILL-PIGEON—*Columba rupestris turkestanica* Pall.

Common all the way amongst the rocks and cliffs from about 9,000 to 14,000 ft.

43. SNOW PIGEON—*Columba leuconota leuconota* Vig.

Common over the Soji La Pass.

44. INDIAN TURTLE DOVE—*Streptopelia orientalis meena* (Sykes.)

Met with a few pairs in apple and poplar groves on August 4th at Basgoo about 11,000 feet.

45. CHUKAR PARTRIDGE—*Alectoris græca pallescens* (Hume).

Heard them calling occasionally along the route from Matayan to Leh and saw a family with 14 well grown chicks between Kargil and South Karbu on August 15th about 10,000 feet.

46. GULL—*Larus* sp. ?

A few pairs seen on the islands in the Indus below Leh on August 4th at about 11,000 feet. I do not think they were breeding. These were probably *Larus brunneicephalus* Jerd.

47. TERN—*Sterna* ?

A few pairs seen on the islands in the Indus in company with the gulls, on August 4th at about 11,000 feet. These were probably *Sterna hirundo tibetana* Sand.